

Rajiv M. Banavali PhD 1904.

Rajiv Banavali did his research with Bob Murray between 1979 and 1984. After graduation he did postdoctoral research with Paul D. Bartlett, at Texas Christian University. When Bartlett retired in 1987 Rajiv joined Rohm and Haas in Houston. There he went from being an entry-level Ph.D. bench chemist to a Research Director and eventually was promoted to Global Research Director.

Rohm and Haas was bought by Dow in 2008, and he left to become Specialty Products R & D Director at Honeywell, Vice President, Chief Technology Officer, Advanced Materials. He joined Huntsman in Singapore in 2018 to run its Asia R & D centers and recently returned to the US to Westrock in Atlanta where he is Senior Vice President, Science, and Innovation.

He is a very loyal alum and has helped us and other alumni out a lot in the almost 40 years since he was here. He has served on the College of Arts and Sciences Advisory Board, and recently reconnected when he returned to the US last year. He presented our Distinguished Alumni Lecture in 2005. This is the 14th graduate of the department to receive one of these prestigious awards.